



July 16, 2004

For information: (678) 413-8650

JULY 4th MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT PREDICTIONS ANNOUNCED

With one of the deadliest holiday weekends around the corner, the Georgia Department of Motor Vehicle Safety (DMVS) and the Georgia State Patrol (GSP) are urging motorists to drive safe and stay sober when celebrating this July 4th.

The agencies are predicting that 14 Georgians will die over the extended holiday period. A total of 2,044 accidents resulting in 665 injuries are also estimated. The holiday officially begins at 6:00 P.M. Friday, July 2nd and ends at midnight, Sunday, July 4th covering a span of 54 hours.

Last year there were 2,453 accidents in a period of 78 hours that resulted in 19 deaths and 711 injuries. Of the 19 fatalities, 11 were alcohol and/or drug related, and 14 were not using safety equipment. The highest number of fatalities ever recorded for this holiday period was 34 in 1972. The lowest number was two in 1962 and again in 1984.

Summertime brings unique driving challenges with more teen drivers taking the wheel and quick weather changes.

"I would like to encourage drivers to be safe and smart on the roadways this July 4th holiday weekend," said DMVS Commissioner James R. Davis. "Don't forget that you can lose everything from your license to your life if you drink and drive. Please, remember to wear your safety belt, and ask those riding with you to do the same," he added.

"Colonel George Ellis, Georgia Department of Public Safety Commissioner, cautions motorists against drinking and driving. "Plan carefully and use a designated driver if alcohol will be in your holiday plans," he said. "State Troopers will be concentrating on impaired drivers during their holiday patrols," he added.

The DMVS is the agency responsible for gathering, storing and producing Holiday Predictions and Accident Data. Visit the agency's website www.dmv.ga.gov.

###